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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 KATHMANDU 002323

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SA/INS AND DS/IP/NEA  
STATE ALSO PLEASE PASS USAID/DCHA/OFDA  
STATE ALSO PLEASE PASS PEACE CORPS HQ  
USAID FOR ANE/AA GORDON WEST AND JIM BEVER  
MANILA FOR USAID/DCHA/OFDA  
LONDON FOR POL/GURNEY  
TREASURY FOR GENERAL COUNSEL/DAUFHAUSER AND DAS JZARATE  
TREASURY ALSO FOR OFAC/RNEWCOMB AND TASK FORCE ON TERRORIST  
FINANCING  
JUSTICE FOR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL/DLAUFMAN  
NSC FOR MILLARD  
SECDEF FOR OSD/ISA LILIENFELD

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: UPDATE ON NEPAL'S MAOIST INSURGENCY, NOVEMBER 22-28

REFERENCE: KATHMANDU 0140

SUMMARY

1. Forty Maoists, one Royal Nepal Army soldier and twelve police died in clashes this week, while twelve security personnel were injured. Maoists reportedly killed three civilians and abducted five. Three children died after bombs left by the insurgents exploded. Police seized a large cache of weapons from a business south of Kathmandu, while Nepal's donor community expressed concern over the security situation. On November 24, a vernacular newspaper reported that senior Maoists have been invited to participate in an international conference of rebels to be held in Mumbai, India. On November 21, the Royal Nepal Army (RNA) announced plans to recruit 8,000 additional soldiers, including 100 women. Ninety-six percent of schools in the far-western district of Achham remain closed due to Maoist threats. The Government of Nepal (GON) has issued warrants for the arrest of senior Maoist leaders, including Prachanda, Baburam Bhattarai, and Krishna Bahadur Mahara. End Summary.

CASUALTIES ACROSS NEPAL

2. A November 27 blast outside a Coca-Cola factory in Bharatpur, in the west, killed one policeman and a Royal Nepal Army (RNA) soldier. Three other policemen were injured. On November 26, two policemen reportedly were ambushed and killed by Maoists while on duty in the eastern district of Dolakha. According to witnesses, the rebels fired six rounds at the officers, and also detonated a socket bomb as other security personnel arrived to help. Five Maoists reportedly were killed that same day in the western districts of Dang and Dailekh. On November 25, ten Maoists were killed in separate clashes. Two rebels were killed in Nuwakot, north of Kathmandu, four died in the eastern districts of Rautahat and Jhapa, and four others were killed in the western Terai districts of Dang and Bardiya. Five policemen died and seven others were injured in two separate Maoist landmines on November 24. Two of the officers were killed by a remote detonated landmine in the central district of Syangja, and three others were killed by a similar device in the eastern district of Jhapa. Six rebels were killed that same day in clashes with security forces. Four died in Rautahat and Morang Districts, in the east, while two more died in Nuwakot District.

3. On November 23, the press reported that fourteen insurgents were killed. Seven, including a Maoist district commander, were killed in the southern district of Dang, and two others in the western district of Banke. Five rebels also died in the eastern districts of Panchthar and Sunsari. On November 22, a policeman was killed and two Royal Nepal Army (RNA) soldiers were injured in a Maoist ambush in Nawalparasi, central Nepal. Three Maoists were killed by security forces in a separate incident that same day in the far-western district of Bardiya. On November 21, two police were killed in a Maoist planted landmine in the far-eastern district of Therathum, and rebels killed another officer standing guard at a courthouse in Rupandehi. Also on that day, security forces killed two Maoists in Dhankuta District.

POLICE SEIZE CACHE OF EXPLOSIVES

4. Police in Bhaktapur District, immediately south of Kathmandu, seized a cache of explosives from a business on November 24. Among the items seized were 86 cases of

gelatin, which is widely used in making improvised bombs. A portion of the cases were imported from a company based in India. Police officials said there was enough material to blow up almost 100 vehicles, and is the same substance used in recent explosions by the Maoists.

#### DONORS CONCERNED OVER SECURITY SITUATION

15. Several leading members of Nepal's donor community have expressed concern over the security situation, and the future of development projects. In a meeting held on November 27 between the Government of Nepal (GON) and representatives of major donors, including the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the latter said lack of security has delayed the implementation of crucial development projects, including highway construction, drinking water projects, and hydropower projects. Both WB and JBIC asserted that the future of these projects was in jeopardy because of the security situation.

#### BOMB BLASTS KILL THREE CHILDREN

16. Three children died when socket bombs left by Maoists exploded. On November 27, a fourteen-year-old boy in Dailekh District was killed by a Maoist socket bomb he had been playing with. On November 23, a Maoist-planted bomb killed two small boys in Nuwakot, just north of Kathmandu. The rebels reportedly also threatened retribution if the families of the victims reported these incidents to security officials. Maoists reportedly set off several bombs this week. On November 23, Maoists bombed the District Education office (DEO) of Banke, injuring one civilian. On November 21, rebels detonated a bomb at the Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (RNAC) office in the same district. The rebels asked employees to leave the building before setting off the explosion. Damage estimates are over 135,000 USD. On that same day, the insurgents detonated bombs at two vacant police posts in the southern district of Nawalparasi.

17. On November 19, Maoists reportedly shot and killed two Nepali Congress (NC) workers in the far-eastern district of Ilam. On that same day in Jajarkot District, in the west, insurgents reportedly beat a civilian to death for singing. On November 21, the rebels abducted three civilians in the central district of Makwanpur, accusing them of providing water to security forces. The insurgents also abducted two elderly women from Parbat District on November 22. They were later released.

#### MAOISTS RECEIVE INVITATION REBEL CONFERENCE

18. On November 24, a vernacular newspaper reported that senior Maoists have been invited to participate in an international conference of revolutionaries to be held in Mumbai, India. The International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) reportedly confirmed that one of the Maoist senior leaders would be present at the conference, along with over 100 rebel organizations, including groups from India, Turkey, Philippines, and Australia.

#### SOLDIERS AND REBELS INCREASE RECRUITMENT

19. On November 21, the local press reported that the Royal Nepal Army (RNA) plans to increase its strength by enlisting 8,000 recruits. RNA spokesman Colonel Deepak Gurung said the demand for additional troops is "not our wish, but the need of the country." The RNA reportedly has also requested additional finances to enhance surveillance and intelligence capabilities. An unnamed Defense Ministry official justified the training and increase in troops, declaring that the "achievements in the war against Maoists have not been as expected due to lack of adequate army personnel."

110. RNA officials said that almost 1500 women responded to an advertisement placed two weeks ago for female applicants. Brigadier General BA Kumar Sharma said the women will be placed in non-combatant positions, but will receive all of the necessary training to go into the battlefield in case of emergency.

111. Maoists reportedly are also increasing their training and numbers. A vernacular newspaper reported on November 23 that rebels from five neighboring districts in the west--Rukum, Jumla, Dolpa, Kalikot and Jajarkot--received military training in Jajarkot. Over 5,000 cadres reportedly participated in the training.

#### INSURGENCY DESTROYING EDUCATION; INCREASING HARDSHIP

112. As of November 25, ninety-six percent of schools in the far-western district of Achham remain closed due to the

Maoist insurgency. The local press reports that of the 342 schools in the district, 327 are closed, leaving over 45,000 students without formal education. The District Education Officer (DEO) said the students and teachers are afraid to open the schools because the Maoists forcibly recruit students from the classroom. Over 500 youths from the southern district of Nawalparasi reportedly have fled to India to avoid forced recruitment by the Maoists.

13. Residents of Achham are already suffering under a Maoist imposed visa system, in which locals are required to obtain permission from the rebels to go from one village to another. The rebels also have forced the closure of many government offices after expelling Village Development Committee (VDC) secretaries, and embargoing the importation of food and commodities from the outside. According to the locals, there have been no food deliveries for over two months, since the rebels looted three tractor loads of food. Shops remain empty, electricity and drinking water are non-existent, and prices of goods that are available are high.

#### WARRANTS ISSUED AGAIN FOR SENIOR MAOISTS

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14. The Government of Nepal (GON) has issued warrants for the arrest of senior Maoist leaders, including Prachanda, Baburam Bhattarai, and Krishna Bahadur Mahara, filed under the Terrorist and Destructive Activities Act. The Maoists are wanted in connection with the assassination of Mohan Krishna Shrestha, Inspector General for the Armed Police Force (APF), on January 26 (reftel). The Patan Appellate Court has notified the Maoist leaders' respective home districts to serve the warrants.

MALINOWSKI